

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Don Hulen?

2 MR. HULEN: Yes, my name is Don Hulen and I'm the co-
3 founder and executive director of the Arizona Council on
4 Compulsive Gambling. I'm also a member of the board of directors
5 of the National Council on Problem Gambling and I'm a native
6 Arizona and my first memory of gambling was at age four, prior to
7 going to kindergarten here in Prescott on a slot machine. My
8 grandfather was an alcoholic and he used to take me down to
9 Whiskey Row and prop me up on a bar stool and I'd play the nickel
10 slots. And when he got drunk, my job was to lead him home.

11 I didn't become a compulsive gambler until I was 17
12 but I didn't stop until I was 51. And that's 60 now, so that's
13 nine years ago. I worked desperately in this state in bringing
14 awareness of compulsive gambling to Arizona prior to my council
15 becoming chartered under the non-profit laws of this state and
16 once we were chartered, I assisted in the implementation of a
17 statewide toll free help line for compulsive gamblers and their
18 families. I obtained a NADAC provider number and assisted in
19 facilitating a comprehensive training program for behavioral
20 health counselors in the treatment of pathological gambling.

21 I'm going to cut this real short. I've got a lot to
22 say. I have probably spoken with more compulsive gamblers than
23 anybody in this room or anybody in this state. I have advocated
24 and been involved in more criminal cases in this state with
25 compulsive gamblers. I've probably taken more compulsive
26 gamblers by the hand in the middle of the night to the hospital
27 for suicide attempts and I'm going to skip over here a couple of
28 pages, four or five, I guess.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1 I want to say to this industry, the gambling
2 industry, I urge the Arizona gambling industry to join the
3 responsible gambling efforts of the Tohono O'Odham nation, the
4 Ackchin, the Gila River, the San Carlos Apaches, the Yavapai
5 Apaches and Pasquayaki tribes along with the Astar Corporation
6 who has offices here and has casinos in Nevada and Turf Paradise
7 and Phoenix Greyhound Park and Turf Paradise established the
8 first ever -- the second ever gambling responsible program in the
9 nation, I urge you to initiate responsible gaming programs,
10 provide brochures and collateral material on compulsive gambling,
11 provide crisis help line numbers for your customers, provide a
12 portion of your charitable contributions to organizations who
13 provide education and awareness.

14 I want to say that I do not believe that this
15 National Gaming Impact Study Commission was established with the
16 objective in mind of determining the positive impact of
17 compulsive gambling when I first read it on Capitol Hill. I
18 believe it was established because of an outcry of gambling
19 related to social and economic problems and had the entire
20 gambling industry become more knowledgeable then and sooner than
21 then and addressed the problems, I don't believe this Commission
22 would be here today and if the gambling industry addresses the
23 problems now, not tomorrow, not next year, with sincerity and
24 with vigor, the outcome of this Commission may be different than
25 if it weren't.

26 I want to say to the Native Americans and to the
27 gambling industry here that I deal with, not the State of Arizona
28 who provides no money, but to my friends back here, the Native

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1 Americans who, after time went by, realized the problems and they
2 are the ones that provide funding for education, awareness and
3 treatment and you just heard me talk, so it's no sweetheart deal,
4 they get the picture and they're taking care of the problem.
5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Thank you very much, Mr. Hulen
7 and please feel free to submit your entire statement and it will
8 be entered into the record.

9 MR. HULEN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. You have
10 copies.

11 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Thank you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com